

CHARLES H. PERCY

Executive Registry

78-1694

June 2, 1978

OLC #78-2255

Media

Dear Admiral Turner:

Senator Percy thought you might be interested in reading the enclosed article, which appeared in the Chicago Tribune following a press conference held in his office on May 30.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lydon

Kathy Lydon
Press Assistant to
Senator Charles H. Percy

CHICAGO TRIBUNE May 31, 1978 pg.5

Facts prove Cuban role in Zaire: Percy

UNITED STATES Sen. Percy [R., Ill.] said Tuesday that government intelligence reports confirm President Carter's assertion that Cuba was behind the military invasion in Zaire.

Percy, at a news conference in his Chicago office, said that while the new evidence supports Carter's charges that Cuban Premier Fidel Castro's troops were behind the African invasion, he does not agree with Carter's related complaint that Congress has "tied" his hands in dealings with Zaire and other illegitimate invasions in African countries.

Percy said that Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, told him in a phone conversation last weekend that "solid evidence" exists linking Cuba to the bloody invasion of Zaire by Katangan rebels.

IN ADDITION, Percy said members of his staff in Washington were shown evidence—presumably intelligence reports from the French Foreign Legion—confirming Cuban involvement.

"I come down on the side of the President in this case," said Percy of the Carter administration's charge that Soviet-trained Cuban advisers led the rebel soldiers. "There is sufficient evidence that the Cubans trained the rebel soldiers."

However, the senator said he disagrees with the defense of Cuba by U.S. Sen. George McGovern [D., S. D.], who said that Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez told him: "I give you

Zaire President Mobutu reports fleeing rebels massacred more white hostages and Cuba, in a speech the UN General Assembly, denies participating directly or indirectly in the rebel invasion of Zaire. Page 14.

my word, on my honor, that our forces had nothing to do with the Katanga operation."

"I THINK THE evidence will show that . . . Sen. McGovern was misled," Percy said.

Percy said that while there appears to be no doubt of Cuba's involvement in the invasion of Zaire, there is no justification for Carter's charge that recent congressional actions have tied the hands of the President in foreign affairs.

During a news conference in Chicago last week, Carter did not call for a repeal of an amendment forbidding involvement in Communist-held Angola without legislative approval, but did say that the amendment limits his options in dealing with African countries.

PERCY DEFENDED the congressional amendment, saying the President had sufficient options in the Zaire matter and, if he wants to get involved in Angola by aiding anti-Communist factions operating in that country, he has only to ask Congress for approval.

"The President had sufficient authority in the Zaire situation that he chose wisely not to use," Percy said.

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